

Rural District of  
Morpeth



ANNUAL

- REPORT -

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1947





# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1947.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.*

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District in 1947.

The vital statistics are fairly satisfactory. The birth rate again shows a slight increase and although the death rate also shows a slight increase it is still well below the average for the country as a whole. It is pleasing to report that the maternal mortality is nil and the infantile mortality rate has again declined, being 37.62 per 1,000 live births as compared with 42.07 in 1946.

Cases of Tuberculosis notified numbered 14, which is a reduction of 9 on the figure for 1946.

A large building programme still lies ahead of the Council. The need for housing is obvious, but an accurate assessment of the position cannot be made until a complete housing survey can be carried out. At present this is held up through shortage of staff in the Health Department.

I should like, once more, to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and of the assistance I have received from the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

*C. B. McGregor, M.B., D.P.H.,*

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Morpeth.*

*August, 1948.*

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary	}	Inspector	...	MR. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Housing				
Meat				
Offices of the R.D.C.	...	...	...	DACRE STREET, MORPETH.
Telephone	...	...	...	MORPETH 24.
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	...	146, STATION ROAD, ASHINGTON.
Telephone	...	...	...	ASHINGTON 2287.

# RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For 1947.

### SECTION A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... ..	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1947 ... ..	16,080
Rateable Value ... ..	£67,593
One Penny Rate produces ... ..	£264 19s. 7d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) ... ..	4,372

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

##### Births :—

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ... ..	302	155	147
Illegitimate ... ..	17	6	11
	<hr/> 319	<hr/> 161	<hr/> 158

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..	19.84
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Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ... ..	8	3	5
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 5

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... ..	24.46
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					Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	166	91	75
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.32
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—							

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
No. 30. Other maternal causes ... ..	—	—

##### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	37.62
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	37.74
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	2

The Registrar General supplies the following:—

### CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1947.

										Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Inf. Enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Œsoph. (M.), Uterus (F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
18.	Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	27
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
29.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
32.	Con. Mal., Birth Injury, Infant Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
34.	Road Traffic Accident	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	5
										91	75
Deaths of Infants under one year:—										Male.	Female.
Legitimate										8	4
Illegitimate										—	—
										8	4

### INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1947.

Causes of deaths.		Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 months.	Total Under 1 year.
Prematurity	...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Gastro-enteritis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Birth Injury	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congen. Abnorm.	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Asphyxia Neon.	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
		5	1	—	—	6	1	5	—	—	12

## SECTION B.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are obtained at the County Laboratory, Newburn. The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below :—

Specimen Sent in by	Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.
C.C.T.O. ... ..	Sputa for Tubercle ... ..	13	81
General Practitioners ...	do. ... ..	2	25
M.O.H. ... ..	Swabs for Diphtheria ... ..	—	7
General Practitioners ...	do. ... ..	22	125
General Practitioners ...	Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococcus	30	35
M.O.H. ... ..	Enteric Results ... ..	—	—
General Practitioners ...	do. ... ..	2	4
General Practitioners ...	Vincent's Angina ... ..	—	7

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These services remain as before.

### NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change. Number of district nurses 10, stationed as previously reported.

### HOSPITALS.

None, except St. Andrew's Colony, an institution belonging to the Northumberland County Council Committee for the Care of Mental Defectives.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER.

The water supplies in the Rural District were described in detail in the Annual Report for 1946 and there are no material changes to record.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The public cleansing of West and East Chevington, Lynemouth, Ellington, Hepscott, Cresswell and the Hutments at Mitford is carried out by direct labour.

The scavenging in the Parishes of Pegswood, Longhirst, Ulgham, Widdrington and Longhorsley is carried out by contract.

The Council has agreed that the latter Parishes, with the addition of the Parishes of East and West Thirston, be scavenged by direct labour.

Two new vehicles have been ordered and it is proposed to commence with the work at the beginning of 1949.

#### SHOPS.

No action has been found necessary.

#### CAMPING SITES.

New licences granted for camping sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Renewal licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	8
Renewal licences	...	...	...	...	19

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints or nuisance arising from the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke have been received or detected during the year.

#### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no (a) public or (b) privately-owned swimming baths within the district.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	2
Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	Nil
17 houses and 1 school were disinfested during the year.				

The method employed for the disinfestation of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" as a spray and sulphur dioxide.

#### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The scavenging tips, salvage depot and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received regular attention from the Council's own rat catcher.

Situation of tips :—Broomhill, 2; Widdrington, 1; Longhirst, 1; Pegswood, 1; Lynemouth, 1; Longhorsley, 1; Ellington, 1; Hepscott, 1; Old Moor, 1.

The Central Salvage Depot is at Pegswood.

## SCHOOLS.

There are 18 schools and all have a sufficient water supply except Cambo, where the water from time to time becomes rather scarce.

Ten schools have the water carriage system with sufficiency of water.

## WATER SAMPLES.

Twelve samples of water have been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory, High Street, Newburn, for bacteriological examination.

The bacteriological results are as follows :—

Date.	Place of collection.	No. of Colonies per ml.			Coli-Aerogenes per 100 ml.
		37° C.	22° C.		
3/ 6/47.	Gorfenletch Farm, Causey Park (Spring)	—	—	...	Nil
3/ 6/47.	Burgham Farm, Morpeth (Tap)	—	—	...	5
1/ 7/47.	Longhorsley Village (,,)	—	—	...	Nil
1/ 7/47.	Netherwitton Village (,,)	—	—	...	Nil
15/ 7/47.	Ulgham Grange, Morpeth (,,)	—	—	...	3
15/ 7/47.	Field Head Farm, Longhorsley (Well)	—	—	...	17
29/ 7/47.	Dyke Neuk, Meldon (Tap)	—	—	...	180+
29/ 7/47.	Throphill, Morpeth (,,)	—	—	...	180+
13/ 8/47.	Field Head Farm, Longhorsley (Well)	—	—	...	Nil
13/ 8/47.	Field Head Farm, Longhorsley (,,)	—	—	...	Nil
21/10/47.	Farm Cottages, Causey Park (Tap)	—	—	...	1
21/10/47.	Cottage, Meldon Hall (,,)	—	—	...	5

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following works were undertaken during the year :—

New drainage and septic tank at Low Angerton Farm.

new drainage and repair tank in  
 " " " " " " Corridge Farm.

,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Cottages, Tranwell.

Wintrick Farm.

at Farm House and 2 Cottages, Northgate, Morpeth.

New manhole cover and drain cleared out at 13, Ellington Road.

Cesspools cleaned out at Ellington Farm.

Gullies cleaned out at Stobswood and Coronation Terrace, Broomhill.

New drains at Widdrington Farm.

## ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

New eaves gutters and downpipes to houses—Swarland Terrace, Red Row.

14 new ash-closet doors fixed—South Broomhill.

Repairs to privies — Hadstone Row and East Chevington.

New eaves gutters and downpipes to 82 houses—Hedgehope Terrace, Chevington Drift.

New eaves gutters and downspouts—Pegswood Colliery houses.

Many houses, owned by the National Coal Board, Broomhill, have received repairs after informal notices.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions to the water-carriage system took place as follows:—

Low Angerton Farm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Corridge Farm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Farm House and Cottages, Northgate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
									5

## MOSQUITO NUISANCE AT LYNEMOUTH.

Treatment of the River Lyne has been carried out by the spraying of oil to combat the mosquito nuisance.

Workmen employed by the Council for this purpose also cleared away obstructions of shingle and stones at the mouth of the river and this resulted in a marked lowering of the level of the river and consequent drainage of most of the ponded areas which were present in previous years. Control by spraying was thus rendered easier and more effective. Every endeavour was made to maintain this reduced level in the river.

Complaints received from residents in the Lynemouth and Ellington districts, however, gave rise to suspicions that mosquitoes were breeding elsewhere than in the River Lyne.

Investigations by the Sanitary Inspector proved that this was indeed the case, and that mosquitoes of the *Theobaldia Annulata* type were breeding in various ponds which had formed as a result of pitfalls. Similar findings were made in the adjoining parts of the Ashington Urban District. A meeting was, therefore, arranged between representatives of the Joint Committee for dealing with the mosquito nuisance and representatives of the National Coal Board, at which the latter expressed willingness to assist and promised to proceed, where possible, with the obliteration of the offending collections of water, either by drainage or filling in.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

	Number of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	No. Outstanding from previous year.	TOTAL.	No. Remedied after Letter or Interview.	Number of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects Remedied thereafter.	Number of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects Remedied thereafter.	In Progress or being dealt with.	Legal proceedings.
<b>HOUSING.</b>											
Structural Defects (Summary of Sheet II)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Food Store ...	62	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dampness ...	80	11	4	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	6	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances ...	189	64	—	64	64	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>WATER SUPPLY.</b>											
Insufficient ...	26	2	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>DRAINAGE.</b>											
Insufficient ...	65	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ...	—	11	—	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</b>											
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ...	92	22	18	40	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops, Food Stores, etc. ...	215	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces ...	18	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	180	17	20	37	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits improperly used ...	26	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Petrol Stores ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1071	146	47	193	162	—	—	—	—	—	—

# SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	TOTAL
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished ... ..	—	—	—	—
	„ repaired ... ..	34	—	—	34
	Privy Ashpits abolished ... ..	5	—	—	5
	„ „ roofed or repaired ... ..	14	—	—	14
	Pail Closets abolished ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Water Closets provided ... ..	6	—	—	6
	„ „ repaired ... ..	—	—	—	—
Drainage	Sanitary Bins provided ... ..	8	—	—	8
	„ „ renewed ... ..	30	—	—	30
	New Drains constructed ... ..	4	—	—	4
	Drains repaired or reconstructed ... ..	1	—	—	1
	Additional Gullies provided ... ..	3	—	—	3
	Old Gullies replaced ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Scullery Sinks provided ... ..	2	—	—	2
Water Supply	„ Waste Pipes repaired ... ..	2	—	—	2
	„ „ „ trapped ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Yards repaired or reconstructed ... ..	3	—	—	3
Water Supply	Sources closed or discontinued ... ..	Nil	Number of houses affected ... ..	Nil	Nil
	New service provided ... ..	Nil	Number of houses affected ... ..	Nil	Nil

## RIVERS POLLUTION.

Cases detected ... ..	2	Particulars ...	Cottingburn : Sewage from farm.
Remedied ... ..	Nil	do. ...	River Lyne : Coal silt.
S.D. Works provided ... ..	Nil	do. ...	Nil.
		do. ...	Nil.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	35	64		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ... ..				
(b) Others ... ..				
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..				
TOTAL ...	35	64		

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..					
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..					
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..					
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ... ..					
TOTAL ...	2	2			

## SECTION D.

## HOUSING.

Tabular Statement for Year 1947.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.		With State Assistance.	Unaided.	TOTAL.
(a) By Local Authority ... ..	Permanent ...	46	—	46
	Temporary ...	—	—	—
(b) By other bodies or persons ... ..	Permanent ...	3	—	3
	Temporary ...	—	—	—

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers ... .. 48.

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

#### (A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs	361
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	185
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
	185

#### (B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
	Nil

#### (C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 12 OF HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

#### (D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

### 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS and not included above ... .. Nil

## SECTION E.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

Number of cowkeepers (registered) in the district ... ..	94
Approximate number of cows kept ... ..	1,835

Set out below is a comprehensive summary of the results of bacteriological reports on samples of milk, displayed in various categories. In order to prevent duplication in the taking of samples, an exchange of information between the Sanitary Departments of the five constituent authorities respecting sampling has been carried out.

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN FROM ALL SOURCES : 71.

Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) ... ..	2
Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials) ... ..	69
	<u>71</u>

### FARMS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT (SAMPLES BY "INSIDE" OFFICIALS).

Only two samples were taken. These were submitted to the Methylene Blue test and both failed to satisfy the test.

Both proved negative when tested for Tubercle bacilli.

# FARMS "INSIDE" RURAL DISTRICT (SAMPLES BY "OUTSIDE" OFFICIALS).

## TUBERCULIN TESTED (40 samples).

- 16 Satisfied both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.
- 7 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Satisfied Methylene Blue but failed B.Coli.
- 3 Satisfied B.Coli but failed Methylene Blue.
- 6 Failed both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.
- 6 Failed Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Test for T.B. only.
- Positive T.B.
- 26 Samples tested for both Methylene Blue and B.Coli.
- 13 Samples tested for Methylene Blue only.
- 4 Samples tested for Tuberculosis (all negative).

## ACCREDITED (8 samples).

- 1 Satisfied both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.
- 4 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Satisfied B.Coli but failed Methylene Blue.
- 2 Failed Methylene Blue test only.
- 2 Samples tested for both Methylene Blue and B.Coli.
- 6 Samples tested for Methylene Blue only.
- 3 Samples tested for Tuberculosis (all negative).

## UNDESIGNATED (21 samples).

- 3 Satisfied both Methylene Blue test and B.Coli test.
- 7 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.
- 3 Satisfied B.Coli but failed Methylene Blue.
- 2 Failed both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.
- 5 Failed Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Tested for Tuberculosis only.
- 1 POSITIVE T.B. (Cow slaughtered).
- 8 Samples tested for both Methylene Blue and B.Coli.
- 12 Samples tested for Methylene Blue only.
- 1 Sample tested for T.B. (POSITIVE).

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were surrendered in the Morpeth Rural District to the Council's Meat Inspector :—

UNSOUND FOODS.					SURRENDERED.		SEIZED.		PROCEEDINGS.
Beef (home-killed)	...	...	...	...	57	lbs.	...	—	...
Beef (imported)	...	...	...	...	964	lbs.	...	—	...
Bacon	...	...	...	...	7½	lbs.	...	—	...
Cheese	...	...	...	...	4	lbs.	...	—	...
Butter	...	...	...	...	24	lbs.	...	—	...
Roast Beef	...	...	...	...	1	tin	5¾ lbs.	...	...
Throatbreads	...	...	...	...			30 lbs.	...	...
Irish Steak	...	...	...	...	3	tins	3½ lbs.	...	...
Liver	...	...	...	...			8 lbs.	...	...
Cod Liver and Roe	...	...	...	...	1	tin	...	...	...
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	2	tins	12 lbs.	...	...
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	3	tins	18 lbs.	...	...
Corned Mutton	...	...	...	...	1	tin	6 lbs.	...	...
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	1	tin	6 lbs.	...	...
Veal Loaf	...	...	...	...	2	tins	1½ lbs.	...	...
Ham Loaf	...	...	...	...	2	tins	1½ lbs.	...	...
Sausage	...	...	...	...			54 lbs.	...	...
Spam	...	...	...	...	2	tins	1½ lbs.	...	...

Minced Beef with Cereals ... ..	2	tins	1½lbs.	...	—	...	—
Boned Chicken ... ..	1	tin	...	...	—	...	—
Meat Pies ... ..	11		...	...	—	...	—
Barley ... ..			110 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Meat and Vegetables ... ..	6	tins	7 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Irish Stew ... ..	2	tins	3 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Mixed Vegetables ... ..	2	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Potatoes ... ..	5	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Soups ... ..	5	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Beans ... ..	13	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Peas ... ..	18	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Tea ... ..	26	ozs.	...	...	—	...	—
Fish Cakes ... ..	144		...	...	—	...	—
Pilchards ... ..	3	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Salmon ... ..	2	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Prunes ... ..			180 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Grape Fruit ... ..	1	tin	...	...	—	...	—
Peaches ... ..	2	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Fruit Salad ... ..	2	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Tomatoes ... ..	4	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Jam ... ..	3	tins	5 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Marmalade ... ..	5	tins	8¾lbs.	...	—	...	—
Condensed Milk ... ..	3	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Evaporated Milk ... ..	125	tins	...	...	—	...	—
Dried Egg ... ..	1	tin	5 ozs.	...	—	...	—
Coconut ... ..			5 lbs.	...	—	...	—
Shredded Wheat ... ..			¾lb.	...	—	...	—
Curry Powder ... ..			½lb.	...	—	...	—
Pickles ... ..	17	jars	...	...	—	...	—
Beetroot ... ..	4	tins	...	...	—	...	—

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided throughout the year by the South-East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Rural District Council is a constituent authority.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Diphtheria ... ..	11	10	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	7	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	6	Unknown	5
Acute Anterior Polio. ... ..	3	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	1	1	—
Measles ... ..	86	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	9	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ... ..	1	1	—

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65 years	TOTAL
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	4	1	-	-	11
Scarlet Fever ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	1	-	7
Pneumonia ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	6
			(Age unknown 1)										
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Cerebro-spinal F. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malaria (C.A.) ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles ... ..	1	3	9	15	18	38	1	1	-	-	-	-	86
Whooping Cough ..	1	1	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

### ENTERIC FEVERS.

No case of Typhoid Fever or Paratyphoid Fever was notified during the year.

### MEASLES.

This disease, which became prevalent during November and December, 1946, continued to have a high incidence during the first three months of 1947. During January, February and March, 84 cases were notified, while only 2 cases were notified in the remaining 9 months, making a total of 86 cases for the year. There were no deaths.

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease continued to have a low incidence, only 9 cases being notified. There were no deaths.

### ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

The number of cases of this disease notified was the same as in 1946, viz., 3. One of these cases occurred in a boy who was on holiday and who must have acquired his infection before his arrival in the district. This child and one of the other cases made a complete recovery, with no resulting disability. The third patient also recovered, but was left with some weakness of one leg.

### SCARLET FEVER.

This disease continued to have a low incidence and to be mild in character. Seven cases were notified and two were removed to hospital.

### DIPHTHERIA.

After several years of almost epidemic incidence, Diphtheria showed a sharp and very welcome decline in 1947.

Only 11 cases, with no deaths, were notified, as compared with 68 cases, with one death, in 1946, and 70 cases with four deaths in 1945. It is interesting to note that six of the eleven cases occurred in persons over school age, of whom five were over 20 years. Only three of the cases were known to have been immunised.

It is impossible to say whether this greatly reduced incidence is due to the extensive immunisation of the child population, or is merely the natural sequence of several years of high incidence.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year visits were paid to schools in the Rural District, with the exception of Longhirst and Longhorsley.

Altogether, the primary course of treatment was given at the schools, Welfare Centres and by private doctors to 248 pre-school children and 308 school children. In addition, 388 children received reinforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1947, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows :—

Percentage of pre-school children immunised	...	...	...	61%
Percentage of school children immunised	...	...	...	98.8%
Percentage of child population immunised	...	...	...	84.7%

DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939 : SCABIES ORDER, 1941, No. 33A.

The incidence of Scabies showed a marked decrease, there being 5 cases, as compared with 8 in the previous year. There were no cases of Scabies and Lice.

The cleansing station in Ashington continued to function during the year and clinics at which your Medical Officer attended were held as required.

The following table shows, in age groups, the number of persons from Morpeth Rural District who were treated for Scabies in 1947 :—

				Scabies only.	
				M.	F.
Over 16 years	...	...	...	1	1
5—16 years	...	...	...	2	-
Under 5 years	...	...	...	1	-
				4	1

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the five districts included in the No. 2 Medical Area :—

	Scabies Only.			Scabies & Lice.			Scabies Not Found.			Lice Only.	
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.
Over 16 years	...	...	...	-	1	...	-	-	...	-	1
5—16 years	...	...	...	3	3	...	-	-	...	-	-
Under 5 years	...	...	...	-	1	...	1	1	...	-	1
				3	5		1	1		-	2

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1° year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 — 5 years ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 — 15 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 25 years ...	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 — 35 years ...	3	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
35 — 45 years ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 — 55 years ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 — 65 years ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 65 years ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	9	4	-	1	5	1	-	-

## CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1947.

	MALES.							FEMALES.						
	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—	Total.	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—	Total.
Larynx ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Esophagus ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Lungs ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Stomach ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Pancreas ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gall-bladder .	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cæcum ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon ...	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
Uterus ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bladder ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	1	-	8	9	1	-	-	2	4	4	11

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947. Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 1921 Census	London Adm. County
BIRTHS:—	* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—			
Live Births ... ..	20.5†	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births ... ..	0.50†	0.62	0.54	0.49
DEATHS:—				
All Causes ... ..	12.0†	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza ... ..	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ... ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
NOTIFICATIONS:—				
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough ... ..	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria ... ..	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas ... ..	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles ... ..	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia ... ..	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.				
† Rates per 1,000 total population.				
DEATHS:—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—			
All causes under 1 year of age ...	41 ‡	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
NOTIFICATIONS:—	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—			
Puerperal Fever ... ..	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..				6.94§

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15 — 44
140. Abortion with Sepsis ... ..	0.10	9
141. Abortion without Sepsis ... ..	0.06	5
147. Puerperal Infections ... ..	0.16	
142—146 } 148—150 } Other Maternal Causes ... ..	0.85	

‡ Per 1,000 related births.  
§ Including Puerperal Fever.

J. & J. S. Mackay, Morpeth.







